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SPECIAL 107th AGM Issue
Committees & Projects Report

COMMITTEES

Insect Committee

Promotes the understanding and conservation of insects and other invertebrates in the country. Activities include: lectures, field studies, publications and free insect identifications.

Milestones 2016-2017

- 6,200 downloads of the pollinator handbook (Our Friends the Pollinators)
- Lectures about Pollinators given in different parts of the country
- Pollinator conservation work in Kakamega, Kiambu and Elgeyo Marakwet ongoing
- Insect identifications still ongoing – 50 identified so far
- Organized Dudu walks at City Park
- Scientific articles about insects written
- Data basing and photography of insects for Invertebrate Zoology Section of NMK and FAO on-going
- Butterflies of East Africa book completed and launched

For questions and identifications of insects : insects.eanhs@gmail.com

Bird Committee

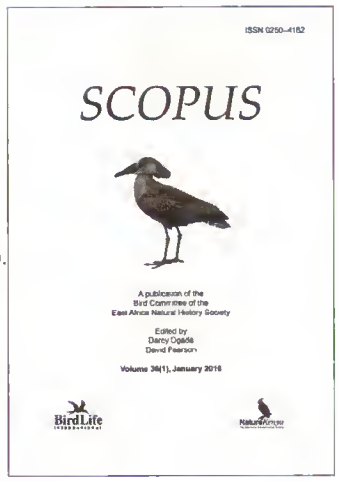
Promotes the study, conservation, monitoring and enjoyment of birds and their habitats in eastern Africa. Activities: ornithological advice, publications, curation, bird ringing, records and databases and supporting Nature Kenya's bird walks.

Milestones 2016-2017:

- Member of Kenya Wildlife Service's National Bird Task Force – meetings ongoing
- Ringers Certification plans progressing in collaboration with KWS
- January Waterbird counts done in Nairobi area, Rift Valley Lakes, North Coast, Lake Victoria
- Fundamentals of Ornithology course successful
- Bird ringing at Ngulia Lodge, Nairobi Museum and A Rocha Nairobi
- Control of House Crows discussions ongoing

Contact: birds@naturekenya.org

Scopus - Peer-reviewed ornithological Journal



Milestones 2016-2017:

- Scopus volume 36(2) and 37(1) published online. Papers published include: The increasing urban status of Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis by Esther Etol et al
- Scopus is hosted online at the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). Also included in an academic research database through the online publisher EBSCO
- Will publish regional papers from 2016 Pan African Ornithological Congress

Contact: scopus@naturekenya.org

Kenya Bird Map Project

Using citizen science to record and understand the distribution of Kenya's birds. (kenyabirdmap.adu.org.za).

BirdLasser Kenya (bird mapping APP) is now available for both Android and iOS phones. The APP is a free download on the respective stores. Birders are encouraged to download the APP and contribute their records whenever they are out in the field.

Milestone 2016-2017:

- Over 120,000 bird records have been submitted into the website.
- 195 observers have contributed data
- 804 pentads atlassed at least once

Contact: kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org

Succulenta East Africa

Devoted to growing and learning about Succulent plants. Activities: Educational field trips, publications, talks and discussions, and Garden visits

Milestones 2016-2017

Booklets published include:

- The Pollination of East African Succulent Plants
- The History of Succulent Plants in Kenya
- A checklist of Kenyan Succulent Plants
- Taxonomy Without (too many) Tears
- An ABC for Succulent Plant Enthusiasts
- Uses of Succulent Plants in East Africa
- Ballya newsletter

Contacts: susieallankenya@gmail.com

Environmental Policy and Legislation Working Group

Advocacy group that contributes to environmental policies & legislation Advocates for conservation of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas.

Achievements 2016-2017
Comments submitted to NEMA on:

- Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Report on the Northern Economic Corridor
- EIA Report for Coal Fired Power Plant in Lamu County
- Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for LAPSSET Corridor Infrastructure Development Project
- ESIA Report for the Proposed Gas Exploratory Drilling in Blocks L4 and L13 in Lamu County
- ESIA Report for proposed High Grand Falls multi-purpose dam project
- ESIA report for the realignment of SGR through NNP
- Letter on Development and Conservation Rationale written to Kipeto Energy Shareholders regarding the proposed Kipeto Wind Energy Project

For more information contact: advocacy@naturekenya.org

Kenya Herpetofauna Working Group

Volunteers who have a special interest in reptiles and amphibians Activities: Free identifications, trainings, and conservation and restoration of amphibian and reptile habitats.

Milestones 2016-2017:

- Established a website with information on Kenyan reptiles www.kenyareptileatlas.com
- Facebook page for East African reptiles where photos can be identified and information shared
- Discovered 3 new species in recent surveys in Karura Forest in Nairobi, Chyulu Hills, and Mpeketoni in Lamu County
- Yearly amphibians and reptiles biology course to be done in October/ November

For comments and questions: dwasonga@museums.or.ke

Youth Committee

An action group of Nature Kenya initiated by the Society's youth members Activities: Trips and outings, outreach programmes, networking and collaboration.

Milestones 2016-2017:

- Outings to Gatamaiyu forest, Wajee camp and Taita Hills
- World Migratory Bird Day outreach in Bunyala
- Student bird walks at Peponi school and City Park
- Participating in Bird Ringing and Waterbird census
- Assisting Wednesday birdwalks and anytime when called upon

For more information: youthcommittee@naturekenya.org

Mammal Committee

Promotes the conservation and appreciation of Kenya's mammal heritage

Activities: Public awareness campaigns, lectures and citizen science

Milestones 2016-2017:

- Mapping Mammals via citizen science. See www.inaturalist.org/projects/mammals-of-kenya
- Total observations so far: 1401. Species: 124 (124/400) by 121 participants
- Planning to map all the 410 species in Kenya by 2018

Contacts: Bernard Agwanda (benrisky@gmail.com) or Simon Musila (smusila@museums.or.ke)

Habitat Restoration Initiative for East Africa

Aims to restore degraded habitats for sustenance and conservation of biodiversity.

Activities: Inventory of nesting sites for birds, tree nurseries at Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, awareness creation on restoration and biodiversity, checklist of restoration and rehabilitation initiatives in Kenya

Milestones so far:

- Checklist of plants of a fragment of indigenous Thika forest
- Indigenous tree nursery at Kisima Primary School, Thika
- Visit to highly degraded Kibauni Hill with NMK team, community and area MP

Samaki Working Group

Creates awareness and appreciation of fishes of Kenya and promotes fish conservation and sustainable use.

Activities: samaki days, fish excursions, interactive workshops, organizing talks or lectures about fish, participation in national environment days.

Milestones 2016-2017

- One-week training workshop on fish and fish taxonomy
- Monthly excursions
- Preparing educational materials on fish for the public
- Setting up fish exhibition at NMK gallery
- Currently recruiting new members

contact: info@kenweb.or.ke/ www.kenweb.or.ke

Plant Committee

Promotes botanical studies, plant species conservation, environmental education and capacity development for young botanists and biodiversity enthusiasts.

Activities: Lectures, field excursions, plant identification.

Achievements 2016-2017:

- Working at Ol Ari Nyiro IBA to enrich the existing plant checklist for the site
- Plant diversity exploration at Olorgesailie archeological site to generate a plant checklist
- Botanizing at the NMK compound
- Currently documenting medicinal plants of Kenya
- Involved in the long term monitoring of the seasonal wetlands in Nairobi National Park.
- Proposing to conduct an inventory of the plant species at Kantis Fossil Site (KFS) in Ngong

For questions and identifications of plants: plants@naturekenya.org

For updates go to
www.naturekenya.org

Editorial Team
Norman Kiboi
Gloria Waswa
Fleur Ng'weno
Serah Munguti
John Mwacharo
Layout John Mwacharo
Front banner A. Baya

NatureKenya
THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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Connecting nature & people
For contributions, advertising and subscriptions - contact us at
P. O. Box 44486 GPO, Nairobi Tel:020 3537568/ 0780149200/ 0751624312/ 0771343138
office@naturekenya.org www.naturekenya.org
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PROJECTS

Friends of City Park (FoCP)

Aims to protect and restore City Park

Activities: monthly nature walks, clean ups, engaging stakeholders, mobilizing resources, expertise and public support.

Milestones 2016-2017:

- The Maze gazetted as a National Monument
- Held a stakeholders' forum – 242 individuals and 81 institutions participated
- City Park rehabilitation through Nairobi Metropolitan Services Improvement Project (NAMSIP) project ongoing
- Working with Nairobi City County and National Museums to raise funds for fencing the park
- Monthly nature walks every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month
- Managed to ward off developments, and successfully engaged with Government offices to protect City Park
- Organized group walks in City Park
- Working on rehabilitating the Pollinator Garden and the Butterfly cage

Contact: cityparkfriends@naturekenya.org
or visit our website: www.friendsofcitypark.org

Friends of Nairobi Arboretum (FoNA)

Aims to maintain the Arboretum for recreation, education and scientific knowledge.

Activities: Nature walks, monthly environmental lectures, film series and short courses

Milestones 2016-2017:

- Walk with Sukuma Twende Group to raise funds for the construction of Wawiye Avenue. Ksh. 1m realized and project is underway
- Received donations of toilets from Finnish Embassy and a waste segregation bin from two friends of the Arboretum.
- Monthly public lectures and films still on course
- Regular tree walks & nature interpretation services
- Quarterly clean-up exercises with the public

Contact : fona@naturekenya.org
or visit our website www.nairobiarboretum.org

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

Relaunched in March 2016 to protect the unique and internationally renowned Arabuko-Sokoke forest at the Coast
Activities: monitor destruction of the ecosystem in the forest by documenting and reporting illegal tree felling and poaching of animals; create awareness of the value of the forest; and support Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and the community group ASFADA.

Milestones 2016-2017:

- Relaunch of Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest on 30 March 2016
- 165 Friends signed up
- Funded and monitored two 10 day de-snaring projects with KWS. Also worked with Tsavo Trust on de-snaring in the forest
- Funded road-clearing in the forest
- From June 2016 Friends joined fortnightly walks in forest
- Launched merchandise range October 2016
- Working with AFEW on an education project
- Launched website https://www.friendsarabukosokoke.org

Contact : deborah.goodhart@btinternet.com

Nairobi Biodiversity Parks Project

A project funded by Rufford Small Grants, now focusing on documenting and promoting seasonal wetlands on the northern edge of Nairobi National Park.

- 2016-17: Planning a booklet on seasonal wetlands in Nairobi National Park

Contact: fleur@africaonline.co.ke

JOINT EANHS AND NMK

Journal of East African Natural History

Publishes papers and notes in the field of natural history

- Vol 105 Part 1 (2016) is available online on BioOne and on African Journals OnLine.
- Vol 105 Part 2 (2016) is being finalised
- Income from BioOne in 2016 estimated to be over $7460.
- Published a special issue of the JEANH (Vol 104; 2015) dedicated to the 80th birthday of Jonathan Kingdon, the last issue to be printed.

EDITORIAL.

The Journal
OF THE
EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VOL. I. NO. 1. JANUARY 1948

Contact: Bytebier@ukzn.ac.za or mwarui@yahoo.com

The EANHS Library

- One of the best Special Libraries in the Country.
- Has recorded tremendous growth in collections, mainly through donations and exchange.
- **Main donors:** Book Aid International, Biodiversity International, Mr. Kevin Muchiti, Mrs. Margaret Njonjo, Mrs. Burton and Prof. Jack Harris.
- Exchange of publications program with over 80 partners
- Recorded over 600 visits by Nature Kenya members in 2016
- **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Biodiversity Heritage Library, Writers Guild Kenya and Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium
- Introduced a children's corner where members can bring their children to read at a small fee of Ksh.100/- per year

Contact: aowano@museums.or.ke

PARTNER

Tropical Biology Association

An international NGO that is building the capacity of people, and their institutions, to protect natural resources.
Gives people skills and tools for managing natural resources sustainably - demand-driven training, and support for research and conservation action.

Milestones 2016-2017

- Ran 2 month-long field courses in Uganda & Madagascar
  - 43 biologists from 28 countries trained
- Ran 2 short courses for 25 managers from 15 African countries on
  - Carnivore Conservation in Africa (held in Tanzania)
  - Communicating results and publishing (held in UK)
- Facilitated 6 international skills & learning exchanges for 20 conservation managers working in 7 Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity hotspot countries
- Organized 1st ever citizen science symposium in East Africa; 57 delegates from 4 countries attended

For more information visit: www.tropical-biology.org

in the FIELD

SEPTEMBER AT A GLIMPSE

Sep 2nd	FoCP Nature Walk
Sep 6th	Morning Bird Walk
Sep 13th	Morning Bird Walk
Sep 16th	FoCP Nature Walk
Sep 17th	Sunday Bird Watch
Sep 20th	Morning Bird Walk
Sep 27th	Morning Bird Walk

Bird ringing every Tuesday morning (check with Ornithology section, National Museums).

Birders Please Note! Wednesday Morning Birdwalks meet at 8:30 am at the Nairobi National Museum. Members meet in the courtyard of the Museum, past the entrance to the galleries. We may walk in the museum grounds or visit a different site in Nairobi. The walks end at about 12:30 pm. Please note that we are unable to provide transport, although some members share.

The Sunday Birdwatch on the THIRD Sunday of each month also meets at 8:30 am, at the same location. It is a day trip; please bring water, lunch and transport if possible.

Mombasa Birdwalks On the 3rd Saturday of each month. For meeting time and place, please contact Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540; or Doris Schaule <dorischaule@gmail.com> / 0722-277752. Or check Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>

Contact the office for information on other birdwalks in Kakamega, Kisumu, and other sites

Ngong Forest walks - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9.00 am. Contact Simon 0729-840715

September Skies

By F. Ng'weno

Planets, Sept 2017
Jupiter is the brilliant light in Jupiter is the brilliont light in the west, followed closely by the bright stor Spica. Golden Soturn is high overheod. The woxing crescent moon is neor Jupiter ond Spica on Sept 22, ond near Saturn on Sept 26 ond 27.

In the morning before dawn, brilliant Venus, reddish Mars and little Mercury are low in the eostern sky. The woning crescent moon is near Venus on Sept 17. Venus (lower eoch morning) ond Mors (rising) draw close together, passing each other on October 5.

Morning Sky
Brilliant Venus, reddish Mars and little Mercury are low in the eostern sky before down. The waning crescent moon is near Venus on Sept 17. Above the planets, high in the east, is the constellation of Orion the Hunter, with the brightest star, Sirius, to the south.

Mors, Mercury and the star Regulus are neor each other for most of September. At mid-month, the plonets Mars and Mercury oppeor very close. Then ot month's end Mercury sinks into the sunrise. Venus (lower each morning) ond Mors (rising) drow close together, passing eoch other on October 5.

September Stars
The constellation of the Scorpion crawls towards the southwest. In the south, left of the Scorpion, there is o group of eight bright stars. Imogine a teapot shape, or a basket with o hondle. To the oncient Greeks this was Sagittorius, the Archer.

High in the northeast, olmost overheod, is the bright star Altoir, flanked by two fainter stars. Between Altair and the northern horizon is the brillionf white star Vega. It's in o tiny constellotion colled the Lyre. Below Altoir, eost of Vego, is another bright star, Deneb.

Moon Sept '17
Full moon, Sept 6. Lost quarter, Sept 13. New moon, Sept 20. First quorter, Sept 28.

naturalist

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Meals,
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Park fees for Citizens

(Residents & non-residents to pay own park Camping fee)

To Book, contact Norman Kiboi at news@naturekenya.org or 0739200216.
Pay by 13th October 2017 to reserve your spot.

Yes! Start my **Nature**Kenya membership

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MEMBERSHIP TYPES	Ksh Per Year
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Student	1,200
Schools, Clubs	1,500
Corporates	20,000 - 30,000

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- Confirm details & press OK

For details on associated groups such as Youth Committee, Succulenta, and Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, City Park or Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, contact office@naturekenya.org